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BULLETIN
OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF
PENNSYLVANIA.

VOL. I.]

MARCH, 1845.

[NO. I.



A BRIEF DESCRIPTION
OF
N E W Y O R K ,
FORMERLY CALLED
NEW NETHERLANDS,

WITH THE PLACES THEREUNTO ADJOINING,

TOGETHER WITH THE
MANNER OF ITS SCITUATION, FERTILITY OF THE SOYL,
HEALTHFULNESS OF THE CLIMATE, AND THE
COMMODITIES THENCE PRODUCED.

A L S O ,
SOME DIRECTIONS AND ADVICE TO SUCH AS SHALL GO THITHER:
AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT COMMODITIES THEY SHALL
TAKE WITH THEM: THE PROFIT AND PLEASURE
THAT MAY ACCRUE TO THEM THEREBY.

L I K E W I S E ,
A BRIEF RELATION OF THE CUSTOMS OF THE INDIANS THERE.

B Y D A N I E L D E N T O N .

L O N D O N .
1 6 7 0 .



EDITED BY JOHN PENNINGTON, Member of the Historical Society of Penn'a
PRESS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.
1845.

122
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1845
TO THE

READER

Reader :

I have here through the investigation of divers persons in England and elsewhere, presented you with a brief but true relation of a known and unknown part of America. The known part which is either inhabited or lieth near the Sea, I have described to you, and have writ nothing but what I have been an eye-witness to, all, or the greatest part of it, neither can I safely say was I willing to exceed but was rather willing the place itself should exceed my Commendation which I question but will be owned by those that shall travel thither. For the unknown part which is either some places lying to the Northward, yet undiscovered by any English, or the bowels of the Earth not yet opened though the natives tell us of Glittering Stones, Diamonds or Pearl in the one, and the Dutch hath boasted of Gold and Silver in the other yet I shall not feed your expectation with any thing of that nature but leave it till a better discovery shall make way for such a relation. In the meantime accept of this from him who desireth to deal impartially with every one.

DANIEL DENTON.

NOTE.—“ Daniel Denton’s Brief Description of New York, formerly New Netherlands,” is the first English account of the country now divided into New York and New Jersey, and was evidently drawn up before that division was made, or at least promulgated.

It is one of the rarest items in the Bibliotheca Americana. The only sale-catalogues in which it has appeared are Nassau’s, Warden’s and Rich’s, and as these three are of different dates, the notices of Denton occurring in them may all refer to the same copy. A copy is in the Library of Mr. Aspinwall, American Consul in London, and in that of the British Museum; from a transcript of this last, the edition now laid before the public has been printed. Meusel (x. 367,) gives “Denton’s description of New York, London, 1701, 4to,” and adds, “Liber rarissimus videtur, de quo nullibi quidquam, præter hanc epigraphen mancam, reperire licet.” The title as given by Meusel appears among the *quellen* of Eberling’s masterly compends of the histories of New York and New Jersey, but with the * prefixed, indicating that the author had never seen the work itself. Hubbard and Neal have had access to it, and the materials of the article New York in the America of “John Ogilby, Esq., his Majesty’s Cosmographer, Geographic Printer and Master of the Revels,” are drawn without the slightest acknowledgment from Montanus and Denton.

The author was among the first English settlers of the township of Jamaica in 1656, and appears to have been a prominent man among the magnates of Long Island. In the spring of 1665 he represented, with Thomas Benediect, Jamaica in the General meeting of delegates from the towns held at Hempstead, on which occasion was formed the code called the “Duke’s Laws,” (Thompson’s Long Island.) In 1664, Denton was associated with John Bailey and Luke Watson of Long Island, in the purchase from the Indians of nearly 500,000 acres of land in the present counties of Middlesex, Essex and Bergen, New Jersey, at the rate of about half a mill per acre. This is apparently a slight consideration, but as this tract or portions of it had been sold twice before, and several times after this transaction, the “operation” was after all not a bad one for “the poor Indian.” Denton soon sold his share to Capt. John Baker of New York, and John Ogden of Northampton, and it is believed, returned to England.

A
BRIEF RELATION
OF
NEW YORK,
WITH THE PLACES THEREUNTO ADJOINING FORMERLY CALLED
THE NEW NETHERLANDS,* &c.

That Tract of Land formerly called *The New Netherlands*, doth contain all that Land which lieth in the North-parts of *America* betwixt *New-England* and *Mary-Land* [in *Virginia*, the length of which Northward to the Country, as it hath not been fully discovered, so it is not certainly known. The bredth of it is about two hundred miles: The principal Rivers within this tract, are *Hudson's River*, *Raritan River* and *Delewer-bay River*. The chief Islands are the *Manahatan-Island*, *Long-Island* & *Staten-Island*.

And first to begin with the *Manahatans* Island so called by the *Indians*, it lieth within land betwixt the degress of 41 and 42 of North latitude, and is about 14 miles long and two broad. It is bounded with *Long Island* on the South, with *Staten-Island* on the West, on the north with the Main Land: and with *Conecticut* Colony on the east side of it, only a part of the Main Land belonging to *New York* Colony, where several Towns & Villages are settled, being about thirty miles in bredth, doth intercept the *Manahatans* Island & the Colony of *Conecticut* before mentioned.

New York is settled upon the West end of the aforesaid Island, having the small arm of the sea, which divides it from *Long-Island* on the South side of it, which runs away Eastward to *New England*, & is navigable, though dangerous. For about ten miles from *New York* is a place called *Hell-Gate*, which being a narrow passage, there runneth a violent stream both upon flood & ebb, & in the middle lieth some Islands of Rocks, which the Current sets so violently upon, that it threatens present Shipwrack, & upon the flood is a large Whirlpool, which continually sends

* Printed from a copy made by the direction of Mr. John Pennington, from the original in the British Museum, and presented by him to the Historical Society.

forth a hideous roaring, enough to affright any stranger from passing further, & to wait for some *Charon* to conduct him through; yet to those that are well acquainted little or no danger; yet a place of great defence against an enemy coming in that way, which a small fortification would absolutely prevent & necessitate, them to come in at the West end of *Long-Island* by *Sandy Hook* where *Nutten Island* doth force them within Command of the Fort at *New York* which is one of the best Pieces of Defence in the North-parts of *America*.

New York is built most of brick & stone, & covered with red & black tile, & the Land being high, it gives it at a distance a pleasing aspect to the spectators. The inhabitants consist more of *English* & *Dutch* & have a considerable Trade with the *Indians* for *Bever*s, *Otter*, *Raccoon* skins, with other Furs; as also for *Bear*, *Deer* & *Elk* skins; & are supplied with Venison & Fowl in the winter & Fish in the Summer by the *Indians*—which they buy at an easie rate; and having the Countrey round about them they are continually furnished with all such provisions as is needful for the life of man, not only by the *English* & *Dutch* within their own but likewise by the adjacent Colonies.

The Commodities vented from thence is Furs & skins before mentioned; as likewise *Tobacco* made within the Colony as good as is usually made in *Mary-Land*. Also *Horses*, *Beef*, *Pork*, *Oyl*, *Pease wheat* & the like.

Long-Island, the west end of which lies South-ward of *New-York*, runs Eastward above one hundred miles, & it is in some places eight, in some twelve, in some fourteen miles broad; it is inhabited from one end to the other. On the West end is four or five *Dutch Towns*, the rest being all *English* to the number of twelve, besides villages & Farm houses. The Island is most of it of a very good soyle & very natural for all sorts of *English Grain*; which they sow & have very good increase of, besides all other Fruits & Herbs common in England, as also *Tobacco*, *Hemp*, *Flax*, *Pumpkies*, *Melons*, &c.

The Fruits natural to the Island, are *Mulberries*, *Posimons*, *Grapes* great & small, *Huckelberries*, *Cramberries* *Plums* of several sorts, *Rosberries* & *Strawberries*, of which last is such abundance in *June* that the Fields & Woods are died red: Which the Countrey-people perceiving instantly arm themselves with bottles of Wine, Cream & sugar, & in stead of a Coat of Male every one takes a Female upon his horse behind him, & so rushing violently

into the fields, never leave till they have disrob'd them of their red colours & turned them into the old habit.

The greatest part of the Island is very full of Timber, as Oaks white & red, Walnut-trees, Chesnut trees, which yield store of mast for swine, & are often therewith sufficiently fatted with Oak-Corn : as also Maples, Cedars, Saxifrage, Beach, Birch, Holly, Hazel, with many sorts more.

The Herbs which the Countrey naturally afford, are Purzlain, white Orage, Egrimony, Violets, Penneroyal, Alicampane, besides Saxaparilla very common, with many more. Yea, in *May* you shall see the Woods & Fields so curiously bedecke with Roses, & an innumerable multitude of delightful flowers, not only pleasing the eye, but smell, that you may behold nature contending with Art, & striving to equal, if not excel many Gardens in *England* : nay, did we know the vertue of all those Plants & Herbs growing there (which time may more discover) many are of opinion & the natives do affirm, that there is no disease common to the Countrey, but may be cured without materials from other Nations.

There is several Navigable Rivers & Bays which puts into the *North*-side of Long-Island, but upon the *South*-Side which joyns to the Sea, it is so fortified with bars of sands & sholes that it is a sufficient defence against any enemy, yet the *South*-side is not without Brooks & Riverets which empty themselves into the Sea, yea you shall scarce travel a mile but you shall meet with one of them, whose Christal streams run so swift, that they purge themselves of such stinking mud & filth, which the standing or low-paced streams of most brooks & rivers westward of this Colony leave lying, & are by the Suns exhalation dissipated, the air corrupted, & many Fevers & other distempers occasioned, not incident to this Colony : Neither do the Brooks & Riverets premised, give way to the Frost in Winter, or draught in Summer, but keep their course throughout the year.

These rivers are very well furnished with Fish, as Bosse, Sheeps-heads, Place, Pearch, Trouts, Eels, Turtles, & divers others.

The Island is plentifully stored with all sorts of *English* Cattel, Horses, Hogs, Sheep, Goats, &c. No place in the North of *America* better, which they can both raise & maintain by reason of the large & spacious medows or marches wherewith it is fur-

nished, the Island likewise producing excellent *English* grass, the seeds of which was brought out of *England*, which they sometimes mow twice a year.

For wilde Beasts there is Deer, Bear, Wolves, Foxes, Racoons, Otters, Musquashes & Skunks. Wild Fowl there is great store of, as Turkeys, Heath-Hens, Quails, Partridges, Pidgeons, Cranes, Geese of several sorts, Brants, Ducks, Widgeons, Teal, & divers others: There is also the Red-Bird, with divers sorts of singing birds, whose chirping notes salute the ears of Travellers with an harmonious discord. And in every pond & brook green silken Frogs, who warbling forth their untuned tunes strive to bear a part in this musick.

Towards the middle of Long-Island lyeth a plain sixteen miles long & four broad upon which plain grows very fine grass that makes exceeding good hay & is very good pasture for Sheep or other Cattel: where you shall find neither stick nor stone to hinder the horse heels or endanger them in their Races, & once a year the best horses in the Island are brought hither to try their swiftness, & the swiftest rewarded with a silver cup, two being annually procured for that purpose. There are two or three other small plains of about a mile square which are no small benefit to those Towns which enjoy them.

Upon the South side of *Long-Island* in the winter, lie store Whales & Grampasses, which the Inhabitants begin with small boats to make a trade Catching to them no small benefit. Also an innumerable multitude of Seals, which make an excellent oyle: they lie all the Winter upon some broken Marshes & Beaches, or bars of sand before-mentioned, & might be easily got were there some skillful men could undertake it.

To say something of the *Indians*, there is now but few upon the Island & those few now ways hurtful but rather serviceable to the *English*, & it is to be admired how strangely they have decreast by the Hand of God since the English first settling of these parts; for since my time, when there were six towns, they are reduced to two small villages, & it has been generally observed that where the English come to settle, a Divine Hand makes way for them, by removing or cutting off the *Indians*, either by wars one with the other, or by some raging mortal disease.

They live principally by Hunting, Fowling & Fishing: their Wives being the Husbandmen to till the Land, & plant their corn.

The meat they live most upon is Fish, Fowl, & Venison ; they eat likewise Polecats, Skunks, Racoon, Possum, Turtles, & the like.

They build small moveable Tents, which they remove two or three times a year, having their principal quarters where they plant their corn : their Hunting quarters, & their Fishing quarters : Their recreations are chiefly Foot-ball & Cards, at which they will play away all they have excepting a flap to cover their nakedness : They are great lovers of strong drink, yet do not care for drinking, unless they have enough to make themselves drunk : & if there be so many in their Company, that there is not sufficient to make them all drunk, they usually select so many out of their Company proportionable to the quantity of drink, & the rest must be spectators. And if any one chance to be drunk before he hath finisht his proportion (which is ordinarily a quart of Brandy, Rum or Strong-waters) the rest will pour the rest of his part down his throat.

They often kill one another at these drunken matches which the friends of the murdered person do revenge upon the murderer unless he purchase his life with money, which they sometimes do : This money is made of a Periwinkle shell of which there is black & white, made much like unto beads & put upon strings.

For their worship which is diabolical, it is performed usually but once or twice a year, unless upon some extraordinary occasion, as upon making of war or the like ; their usual time is about *Michaelmass*, when their corn is first ripe, the day being appointed by their chief Priest or pawaw, most of them go a hunting for venison : When they are all congregated, their priest tells them if he want money, their God will accept of no other offering, which the people believing, every one gives money according to their ability. The priest takes the money, & putting it into some dishes sets them upon the top of their low flat-roofed houses, & falls to invoking their God to come & receive it, which with many loud hallows & outcries, knocking the ground with sticks, & beating themselves, is performed by the priests, & seconded by the people.

After they have thus awhile wearied themselves the priest & his Conspiracy brings in a devil amongst them, in the shape sometimes of a fowl, sometimes of a beast, & sometimes of a man, at which the people being amazed, not daring to stir, he improves

the opportunity, steps out, & makes sure of the money, & then returns to lay the spirit, who in the mean time is sometimes gone, & takes some of the Company along with him: but if any *English* at such times do come amongst them, it puts a period to their proceeding, & they will desire their absence, telling them their God will not come whilst they are there.

In their wars they fight no pitcht fields; but when they have notice of an enemies approach, they endeavour to secure there wives & children upon some Island, or in some thick swamp, & then with their guns & hatchet they way-lay their enemies, some lying behind one, some another & it is a great fight where seven or eight is slain.

When any *Indian* dies amongst them, they bury him upright, sitting upon a seat, with his Gun, money, & such goods as he hath with him, that he may be furnished in the other world, which they conceive is Westward, where they shall have great store of Game for Hunting, & live easie lives. At his Burial his nearest relations attend the Hearse with their faces painted black, & do visit the grave once or twice a day, where they send forth sad lamentations so long till time hath wore the blackness off their faces, & afterwards every year once they view the grave, make a new mourning for him, trimming up of the Grave, not suffering of a Grass to grow by it: they fence their graves with a hedge, & cover the tops with mats, to shelter them from the rain.

Any Indian being dead, his name dies with him, no person daring ever after to mention his name, it being not only a breach of their Law, but an abuse to his friends & relations present, as if it were done on purpose to renew their grief: And any other person whatsoever that is named after that name doth incontinently change his name & takes a new one, their names are not proper set names as amongst Christians, but every one invents a name to himself, which he likes best. Some calling themselves *Rattle-snake*, *Skunk*, *Bucks-horn*, or the like: And if a person die, that his name is some word which is used in speech, they likewise change that word, & invent some new one which makes a great change & alteration in their language.

When any person is sick, after the means used by his friends, every one pretending skill in Physick, that proving ineffectual they send for a Pawaw or Priest, who sitting down by the sick person without the least enquiry after the distemper, waits for a

gift which he proportions his work accordingly to: that being received, he first begins with a low voice to call upon his God, calling sometimes upon one sometimes on another, raising his voice higher & higher, beating of his naked breasts & sides, till the sweat runneth down, & his breath is almost gone, then that little which is remaining, he evaporates upon the face of the sick person three or four times together & so takes his leave.

Their marriages are performed without any ceremony, the match being first made by money. The sum being agreed upon & given to the woman it makes a consummation of their marriage, if I may so call it: After that he keeps her during his pleasure, & upon the least dislike turns her away & takes another: It is no offence for their married women to lie with another man provided she acquaint her husband, or some of her nearest Relations with it, but if not it is accounted such a fault that they sometimes punish it with death: An *Indian* may have two wives or more if he please, but it is not so much in use as it was since the *English* came amongst them they being ready in some measure to imitate the *English* in things both good & bad: Any maid before she is married doth lie with whom she please for money without any scandal, or the least aspersion to be cast upon her it being so customary, & their laws tolerating of it. They are extraordinary charitable one to another, one having nothing to spare, but he freely imparts it to his friends & whatsoever they get by gaming or any other way, they share one to another leaving themselves commonly the least share.

At their *Canticas* or dancing matches, where all persons that come are freely entertained, it being a Festival time: Their custom is when they dance, every one but the Dancers to have a short stick in their hands & to knock the ground & sing altogether, whilst they that dance sometimes act war-like postures, & then they come in painted for War with their faces black & red, or some all black, some all red, with some streaks of white under their eyes, & so jump & leap up & down without any order, uttering many expressions of their intended valour. For other dances they only shew what Antick tricks their ignorance will lead them to, swinging of their bodies & faces after a strange manner, sometimes jumping into the fire, sometimes catching up a Firebrand, & biting off a live coal, with many such tricks, that will affright, if not please an *English* man to look upon them,

resembling rather a company of infernal furies than men. When their King or *Sachem* sits in Council he hath a company of armed men to guard his person, great respect being shewn him by the People, which is principally manifested by their silence: After he hath declared the cause of their convention he demands their opinion, ordering who shall begin: The person ordered to speak, after he hath declared his minde tells them he hath done: no man ever interrupting any person in his speech, nor offering to speak though he make never so many or long stops, till he says he hath no more to say: the Council having all declared their opinions, the King after some pause gives the definitive sentence, which is commonly seconded with a shout from the people, every one seeming to applaud & manifest their assent to what is determined: If any person be condemned to die, which is seldom, unless for Murder or Incest, the King himself goes in person (for you must understand they have no prisons, & the guilty person flies into the Woods,) when they go in quest of him, & having found him, the King shoots first, though at never such a distance, & then happy is the man can shoot him down, & cut off his which they commonly wear, who for his pains is made some Captain or other military officer.

Their Cloathing is a yard and a half of broad Cloth, which is made for the *Indian Trade*, which they hang upon their shoulders; & half a yard of the same cloth, which being put betwixt their legs, & brought up before & behind & tied with a Girdle about their middle, hangs with a flap on each side: They wear no Hats, but commonly wear about their Heads a Snake's skin, or a belt of their money, or a kind of a Ruff made with Deer's hair & died of a scarlet colour, which they esteem very rich.

They grease their bodies & hair very often, & paint their faces with several colours as black, white, red, yellow, blew, &c., which they take great pride in, every one being painted in a several manner: Thus much for the Customs of the *Indians*.

Within two leagues of New York lieth *Staten Island*, it bears from *New York West* something southerly. It is about twenty miles long, & four or five broad, it is most of it very good land, full of Timber and produceth all such commodities as Long Island doth, besides Tin & store of Iron oar, & the Calamine stone is said likewise to be found there: There is but one Town upon it consisting of *English & French*, but it is capable of en-

tertaining more inhabitants: betwixt this & *Long Island* is a large Bay, & is the coming in for all ships and vessels out of the Sea: On the North side of this Island *After-Skull* River puts into the Main Land on the West side, whereoff is two or three Towns, but on the East-side but one. There is very great Marshes or Meadows on both sides of it, excellent good land, & good convenience for the setting of several towns; there grows black Walnut & Locust as there doth in *Virginia* with mighty tall streight Timber, as good as any in the North of America: It produceth any Commoditie *Long Island* doth.

Hudsons River runs by *New-York* northward into the Countrey, toward the Head of which is seated *New-Albany*, a place of great Trade with the *Indians*, betwixt which & *New York*, being above one hundred miles, is as good Corn-land as the world affords, enough to entertain hundreds of Families, which in the time of the *Dutch* Government of those parts could not be settled: For the *Indians*, excepting one place called the *Sopers* which was kept by a Garrison, but since the reducement of those parts under his Majesties obedience, & a patent granted to his Royal Highness the Duke of *York* which is about six years since by the care of diligence of the Honorable Coll. Nicholls sent thither Deputy to His Highness (we have) a League of Peace was made & Friendship concluded betwixt that Colony & the *Indians* that they have not resisted or disturbed any Christians there, in the setting or peaceable possessing of any Lands with that Government, but every man hath sate under his own Vine & hath peaceably reapt & enjoyed the fruits of their own labours, which God continue.

Westward of *After-Kull* River before mentioned about 18 or 20 miles runs in *Raritan* River Northward in the Countrey, some score of miles, both sides of which River is adorn'd with spacious Medows, enough to maintain thousands of Cattel, the Woodland is likewise very good for Corn & stor'd with wilde Beasts, as Deer & Elks, & an innumerable multitude of Fowl, as in other parts of the Countrey: This River is thought very capable for the erecting of several Towns & Villages on each side of it, no place in the North of *America* having better convenience for the maintaining of all sorts of Cattel for winter & summer food: upon this River is no town settled, but one at the mouth of it. Next this River Westward is a place called *Newasons*, where is

two or three Towns & Villages settled upon the Sea-side, but none betwixt that & Delewer Bay, which is about sixty miles, all which is a rich Champain Countrey, free from stones, & indifferent level; store of excellent good timber, & very well watered, having brooks or rivers ordinarily, one or more in every miles travel. The Countrey is full of Deer, Elks, Bear, & other Creatures, as in other parts of the Countrey, where you shall meet with no inhabitant in this journey, but a few *Indians*, where there is stately Oaks whose broad-branched-tops serve for no other use but to keep off the Suns heat from the wilde Beasts of the Wilderness where is grass as high as a man's middle that serves for no other end except to maintain the Elks & Deer, who never devour a hundreth part of it, then to be burnt every Spring to make way for new. How many poor people in the world would think themselves happy, had they an Acre or two of land, whilst here is hundreds, nay thousands of Acres, that would invite inhabitants.

Delewer bay the mouth of the River, lyeth about the Mid-way betwixt *New-York* & the *Capes of Virginia*. It is a very pleasant river & Countrey, but very few inhabitants, & them being mostly *Swedes, Dutch & Finns*; about sixty miles up the River is the principal Town called *New-Castle*, which is about forty miles from *Mary-land*, & very good way to travel, either with horse or foot, the people are settled all along the West side sixty miles above *New-Castle*; the land is good for all sorts of English grain, & wanteth nothing but a good people to populate it, it being capable of entertaining many hundred families.

Some may admire, that these great & rich Tracts of land, lying so adjoyning to *New-England* & *Virginia*, should be no better inhabited, & that the richness of the soyl, the healthfulness of the Climate & the like, should be no better a motive to induce people from both places to populate it.

To which I answer, that whilst it was under the *Dutch* Government, which hath been till within these six years, there was little encouragement for any *English*, both in respect of their safety from the *Indians*, the Dutch being almost always in danger of them; & their *Bever-trade* not admitting of a War, which would have been destructive to their trade, which was the main thing prosecuted by the *Dutch*. And secondly the *Dutch* gave such bad Titles to Lands, together with their exacting of the Tenths

of all which men produced off their Land, that did much hinder the popularity of it, together with that general dislike the *English* have of living under another Government; but since the reduction of it there is several Towns of a considerable greatness begun & settled by people out of *New-England*, & every day more & more come to view & settle.

To give some satisfaction to people that shall be desirous to transport themselves thither, (the Countrey being capable of entertaining many thousands) how & after what manner people live, & how land may be procured, &c. I shall answer, that the usual way is for a Company of people to joyn together either enough to make a Town, or a lesser number; These go with the consent of the Governor to view a Tract of Land, there being choice enough, & finding a place convenient for a town, they return to the Governor, who upon their desire admits them into the Colony, & gives them a Grant or Patent for the said Land, for themselves & associates. Those persons being thus qualified, settle the place, & take in what inhabitants to themselves they shall see cause to admit of till their Town be full; these associates thus taken in have equal priviledges with themselves, & they make a division of the Land suitable to every man's occasions, no man being debarr'd of such quantities as he hath occasion for, the rest they let lie in Common till they have occasion for a new division, never dividing their Pasture-land at all, which lies in common to the whole Town. The best Commodities for any to carry with them is Clothing, the Countrey being full of all sorts of Cattel, which they may furnish themselves withal at an easie rate, for any sorts of *English* Goods, as likewise Instruments for Husbandry & Building, with nails, Hinges, Glass & the like; For the manner how they get a livelihood, it is principally by Corn & Cattel, which will there fetch them any Commodities; likewise they sowe store of Flax which they make every one Cloth of for their own wearing, as also woollen Cloth, & Linsey-Woolsey, & had they more Tradesmen amongst them, they would in a little time live without the help of any other Countrey for their Clothing: For Tradesmen there is none but live happily there, as Carpenters, Blacksmiths, Masons, Tailors, Weavers, Shoemakers, Tanners, Blacksmiths, & so any other Trade; them that have no Trade betake themselves to Husbandry, get land of their own, & live exceeding well.

Thus have I briefly given you a relation of *New-York* with the places thereunto adjoyning; In which, if I have err'd, it is principally in not giving it its due commendation, for besides those earthly blessings when it is stor'd, Heaven hath not been wanting to open his Treasure, in sending down seasonable showres upon the Earth, blessing it with a sweet & pleasant air, & a continuation of such Influences as tend to the Health both of Man & Beast. And the Climate hath such an affinity with that of *England*, that it breeds ordinarily no alteration to those which remove thither; that the name of seasoning which is common to some other Countreys hath never there been known; That I may say & say truly that if there be any terrestrial happiness to be had by people of all ranks, especially of an inferior rank, it must certainly be here: here any one may furnish himself with land, & live rent-free, yea, with such a quantity of land, that he may weary himself in the walking over his fields of Corn, & all sorts of Grain: & let his stock of Cattel amount to some hundreds, he needs not fear their want of pasture in the Summer or Fodder in the Winter, the Woods affording sufficient supply. For the *Summer*-season, when you have grass as high as a man's knees, nay, as high as his waste, interlaced with Peavines & other weeds that Cattel much delight in, as much as a man can press thorough: And these woods also every mile or half-mile are furnished with fresh ponds, brooks, or rivers, where all sorts of Cattel, during the heat of the day, do quench their thirst & cool themselves; these brooks & rivers being environed of each side with several sorts of trees & Grape-vines, the Vines, arbor-like, interchanging places & crossing these rivers doth shelter from the scorching beams of *Sols* fiery influence: Here those which Fortune hath frown'd upon in *England*, to deny them an inheritance amongst their Brethren, or such as by their utmost labors can scarcely procure a living, I say such may procure here inheritance of lands & possessions, stock themselves with all sorts of Cattel, enjoy the benefit of them whilst they live, & leave them to the benefit of their children when they die: here you need not trouble the Shambles for meats nor Bakers nor Brewers for Beer & Bread, nor run to a Linnen-Draper for a supply, every one making their own Linnen, & a great part of their woollen-cloth for their ordinary wearing: And how prodigal, if I may so say, hath Nature been to furnish the Countrey

in the all sorts of wilde Beasts & Fowle which every one hath an interest in & may hunt at his pleasure; where besides the pleasure in Hunting, he may furnish his house with excellent fat Venison, Turkies, Geese, Heath-Hens, Cranes, Swans, Ducks, Pidgeons & the like: & wearied with that, he may go a Fishing, where the Rivers are so furnished, that he may supply himself with Fish before he can leave off the Recreation: Where you may travel by land upon the same Continent hundreds of miles, & passe through Towns & Villages, & never hear the least Complaint for want, nor hear any ask you for a farthing: then you may lodge in the fields & woods, travel from one end of the Countrey to another, with as much security as if you were lockt within your own Chamber; and if you chance to meet with an *Indian-Town*, they shall give you the best entertainment they have, & upon your desire, direct you in your way: But that which adds happiness to all the rest is the Healthfulness of the place where many people in twenty years time never know what sickness is: where they look upon it as a great mortality if two or three die of a towne in a years time; where besides the sweetness of the Air, the Countrey itself sends forth such a fragrant smell, that it may be perceived at Sea before they can make the Land; where no Air-fog or vapour doth no sooner appear, but a North-west or Westerly winde doth immediately dessolve it, & drive it away: What shall I say more? you shall scarce see a house, but the South-side is begirt with Hives of Bees, which increase after an incredible manner: That I must needs say, that if there be any terrestrial *Canaans* 'tis surely here, where all the Land floweth with milk & Honey. The inhabitants are blest with Peace & plenty, blessed in their Countrey, blessed in their Fields, blessed in the Fruit of their bodies, in the fruit of their grounds, in the increase of their Cattel, Horses & Sheep, blessed in their Basket & in their store; In a word, blessed in whatsoever they take in hand or go about, the Earth yielding plentiful increase to all their painful labours.

Were it not to avoid prolixity I could say a great deal more, & yet say too little, how free are those parts of the world from that pride & oppression, with their miserable effects, which many, nay almost all parts of the world are troubled, with being ignorant of that pomp & bravery which aspiring Humours are servants to, & striving after almost every where: Where a Waggon

or Cart gives as good content as a Coach; and a piece of their home-made Cloth, better than the finest Lawns or richest Silks: & though their low-roofed houses may seem to shut their doors against pride & luxury, yet how do they stand wide open to let charity in & out either to assist each other, or relieve a stranger, & the distance of place from other Nations, doth secure them from the envious frowns of ill-affected Neighbours, & the troubles which usually arise thence.

Now to conclude, its possible some may say, what needs a Relation of a place of so long standing as *New-York* hath been? In answer to which I have said something before, as to satisfie the desires of many that never had any Relation of it. Secondly, though it hath been long settled yet but lately reduced to his Majesties obedience, & by that means but new or unknown to the *English*: Else certainly those great number of Furs, that have been lately transported from thence in *Holland* had never passed the hands of our *English* Furriers: Thirdly, never any relation before was published to my knowledge & the place being capable of entertaining so great a number of inhabitants, where they may with Gods blessing, & their own industry, live as happily as any people in the world. A true Relation was necessary, not only for the encouragement of many that have a desire to remove themselves, but for the satisfaction of others that would make a trade thither.

FINIS.

The Accurate Accomptant or London Merchant, Containing an Analysis for Instructions & Directions for a Methodical Keeping Merchants Accompts, by way of Debtor & Creditor very useful for all Merchants or others that desire to learn or teach the Exact Methods of Keeping Merchants Accompt, by Thomas Brown Accomptant; To be sold by John Hancoch at the first shop in Popes Head Alley at the sign of the Three Bibles in Cornhill, 1670.







